

# Dragonfly Gazette

GEORGIA PROJECT WET Environmental Protection Division

Fall 2016

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River of Words

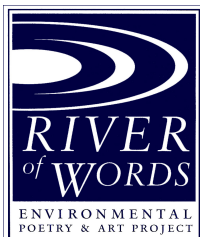
Also:

Our NEW Website!

Exciting Opportunities

Next WET Training

Like us on FaceBook!



## Together since 1997!

Georgia Project WET has partnered with and supported the River of Words Environmental Poetry & Art Project for an inspiring and delightful 19 years. **We had a good run.** Sadly, the national office of River of Words is no longer able to fund the program. It has closed and its national director, Pamela Michaels, will be pursuing other interests.

**The good news is Georgia will continue to hold the contest in our state.**

- NEW forms and rules are ready and available on our new website [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov).
- NEW deadline is **February 1**
- The annual awards ceremony will be held in May.

**Let's keep this program alive!**



2015 National Finalist, Jerry Yu, grade 1, Lilburn

## These things will NOT change about River of Words:

### 1. Free Teacher's Guides, posters and bookmarks

Educators can request a FREE ROW Teacher's Packet which includes an Educator Guide, poster and classroom set of bookmarks. The Guide contains the program rules, entry forms, watershed activities and field trip information.

To request a packet, email your name, school/organization and address to [our office](mailto:our_office@projectwet.org). The teacher's guide is also available for download on our website: [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov).

### 2. The Excitement!

Each year when hundreds of poetry and art entries arrive in our office, we can hardly contain our excitement. The boxes are torn open and the poetry and art are sorted out. We ooo and ahhh over every one and take far longer than necessary, especially when a single piece catches our eye and we run down the hall to share it with friends.



*2014 Grand Prize Winner, Anna Qian, grade 7, Lilburn*

### **3. The Judging**

The Georgia Center for the Book takes all of the poetry to judge, usually about 1,000 poems! Their job is to select state poetry winners in each of the age categories. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division judges all of the art -- a big job, especially in the grade 3-6 category!



*2014 Grand Prize Winner, Nicole Lewandowski, grade 4, Cumming*

### **4. The Traveling Display and Journal**

After scanning, typing and entering everything into a database, we prepare the pieces for the traveling display which goes to many libraries and other centers around the state for a year (the tour schedule is available at [projectwet.georgia.gov](http://projectwet.georgia.gov)). Then, the booklet of poetry and art winners we call the Journal is put together and sent to the printer.





2013 Grand Prize Winner, Athena Marlin, grade 5, Duluth

### 5. The Ceremony

Meanwhile, we work with the Georgia Center for the Book and the Decatur Library on the ceremony to honor the winners and their families and teachers. We usually host around 200 people and arrange everything from the invitations to the parking signs. We print the certificates, purchase the food and flowers, and make sure everything is perfect for our invited guests.



2013 Grand Prize Winner, Happy Leveson-Jones, grade 2 Atlanta

### These things **WILL** change about River of Words:

#### 1. Entry Forms

We now have just two entry forms! One for the STUDENT and one for the TEACHER/FACILITATOR. Individual and group entries will use the same Student Entry Form.

#### 2. Entry Address

Instead of sending your entries to California, you will send them to us at  
**Georgia River of Words**  
**2 MLK Jr Drive, Suite 1462 E**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334.**

#### 3. Deadline Date

New postmark deadline is **February 1**.

#### 4. No National Awards

We are looking for sponsors and support for our state program so that we can honor student efforts in a special way. Can you help?

Complete rules and guidelines on [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov)

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**Visit our new website galleries and see all of our past National Grand Prize winners:**



1997 Grand Prize Winner, Emily Forbes, Kindergarten, Kennesaw  
**Georgia's first national winner in our first year!**

See more at [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov)



**This year's winners!** 32 Georgia art and 20 Georgia poetry winners were selected by State judges this year. Each of the students and their teachers were honored at the 2016 Georgia River of Words Awards Ceremony held at the Decatur library in August. Congratulations to all of the winners in this year's contest! See the winning entries [here](#).

Get your students involved!

The new deadline for entries is **February 1, 2017**.

Complete rules and forms available on [ProjectWET.Georgia.gov](http://ProjectWET.Georgia.gov)



**By the way, have you explored the NEW Georgia Project WET website?**



We have completely redesigned everything and added a ton of new goodies for you! Besides viewing the River of Words Galleries, be sure to go to the **"TOOL BOX"** (linked in the upper right corner) and also visit the **"EDUCATOR RESOURCES"** (linked under WET Educators) for some great Project WET materials!

To find more Project WET  
workshops visit  
[EEinGeorgia.org](http://EEinGeorgia.org)

[TOP](#)



Bookmark [projectwet.georgia.gov](http://projectwet.georgia.gov)



With great pride we announce our:

**1. 2016 Project WET School of the Year--**

- The Environmental & Heritage Center, Buford

**2. 2016 Project WET Educator of the Year--**

- Dr. Deborah Tippins, UGA professor of math and science education

**3. 2016 Project WET Facilitator of the Year--**

- Ruth Mead, Phinizy Center for Water Sciences in Augusta

Congratulations! These very special educators were honored at the EEA Conference in March.

Nominate someone you believe in:

 [Nomination](#) (pdf form)



**Outdoor Learning Symposium registration now open!**

Join educators from around the state at the annual Outdoor Learning Symposium on Friday, October 14 at the SW Atlanta Christian Academy.

Registration and more information:

<http://www.eealliance.org/outdoor-learning-symposium>



**Project WET Foundation in search of Early Childhood educator volunteers!**

The Project WET Foundation is known for its extensive collection of K -12 water education materials, and we are now expanding our efforts to address early childhood water education needs. We are looking for early childhood educators to volunteer to be a part of our field testing team for "Getting Little Feet WET: A Project WET Foundation Early Childhood Education Guide" (working title). The process involves reviewing drafts of

activities, implementing them in the classroom and returning a field testing feedback form that will help us assess necessary edits to the activities prior to publication. Two or three activities will be ready for testing by early October, with the remaining 8-10 more available soon thereafter.

Please contact Megan Regnerus, Publications Manager, at [megan.regnerus@projectwet.org](mailto:megan.regnerus@projectwet.org) for additional information.



### **Save the Date: SEEA Conference March 3-5, 2017**

This year, the Southeastern EE Association Annual Conference will be held here in Georgia at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center in Buford. Look for more information on [EEA's website](#).



### **Water We Singing About?**

Our colleague, New Jersey Project WET coordinator Kevin Kopp, has produced a [collection of water education, kid-friendly songs](#). Each tune is connected to a Project WET activity and all are fun and easy to sing. They are available on CD or by download from this site.



### **WANTED: "High-Tech Pen Pals"**

Fifth grade classes near Albuquerque, New Mexico, are looking for partners to exchange information about watersheds, rivers, stormwater, and other water resources topics!

RiverXchange is a FREE year-long program focused on communication between classes around the world about water resources issues. The hands-on lessons can be used for reference, to enhance your existing curriculum, or as a complete program that explores rivers, watersheds, stormwater, municipal water supplies, ecology, and conservation.

Students communicate 4 times throughout the school year on a private website. The organization provides training and support to ensure a successful experience. Through writing and creative sharing about rivers, students can integrate science with language arts, social studies, and 21st-Century learning skills, all correlated to Common Core Language Arts Standards!

Check out the website, [www.RiverXchange.com](http://www.RiverXchange.com), for more information and to access the registration form.



To find more Project WET workshops visit [EEinGeorgia.org](http://EEinGeorgia.org)

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## Advanced Training

# A T E E G

## for Environmental Education in Georgia

You are invited to participate in a survey regarding the ATEEG Program.

Greetings from Environmental Education Alliance Executive Board! We are looking forward to a wonderful year of celebrating 25 years of this fabulous organization offering programming and networking opportunities for environmental educators around the state. As part of our celebration, we want to learn how to better serve our members in the best way possible. The EEA Certification Advisory Board (CAB) has been working to improve the Advanced Training for Environmental Education in Georgia (ATEEG) Program, and we need to hear from you.

We invite you to participate in a survey to help us identify ways in which the ATEEG Program can meet your needs as an educator. It should take less than 10 minutes, and the information will be anonymous. The survey link will close at midnight on November 7, 2016. Click on this link to take the survey:

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



Find more workshops on [EE in Georgia!](#)

### **Project WET + Know Your Watershed Demo**

Your chance to learn more about WET and to get a free Watershed Guide.

November 4, 2016, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

1442 Richland Rd, Atlanta, GA 30310

For registration information, contact [Darryl Haddock](#)  
or call 404-752-5385

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### **Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree Educator Workshop**

Monday and Tuesday November 7-8, 2016

8:00-5:00 each day

Fortson 4-H Center  
Hampton, GA

Full registration (includes all meals and 2 nights lodging): \$145

One night registration (includes Monday meals and lodging and Tuesday

breakfast and lunch): \$130

Days only registration (includes Monday and Tuesday breakfast and lunch):  
\$115

For registration information, contact [Melanie Biersmith](#) or call 706-484-2894.

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### **Watershed Stewards - Project WET Educator Workshop**

November 10, 2016  
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance  
1442 Richland Rd, Atlanta, GA 30310

For registration information, contact [Darryl Haddock](#)  
or call 404-752-5385

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### **Project WET and Urban Watershed - Stormwater Edition Educator Workshop**

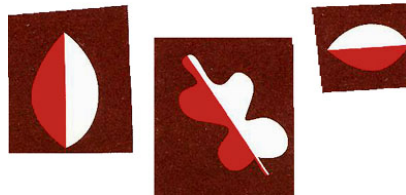
December 3 and December 10, 2016  
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance  
1442 Richland Rd, Atlanta, GA 30310

For registration information, contact [Darryl Haddock](#)  
or call 404-752-5385

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### **Want to become a Project WET Facilitator?**

Our next WET, WILD, and PLT Facilitator training is scheduled for March 16-17, 2017. Watch for registration information on our calendar page and on [eeingeorgia.org](http://eeingeorgia.org).



To find more Project WET  
workshops visit  
[EEinGeorgia.org](http://EEinGeorgia.org)

[TOP](#)

Your Georgia Project WET Coordinators:

[Jo Adang](#)

[Monica Kilpatrick](#)



Georgia Project WET/River of Words

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list.

Our mailing address is:  
Georgia Environmental Protection  
2 MLK Jr. Dr.  
Suite 1462  
Atlanta, GA 30334

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